

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** claim 16 as follows.

A copy of all pending claims and a status of the claims are provided below.

1. (Previously presented) A sanding machine having oscillation drive means for setting an abrasive in an oscillating sanding movement, comprising an activating device having a multiplicity of activating regions triggered in such a way that various regions of the abrasive are alternately pressed onto a workpiece by the activating regions independently of the oscillating sanding movement.
2. (Previously presented) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the activating regions are brought into use asynchronously relative to the oscillating sanding movement.
3. (Previously presented) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the activating device can be moved transversely to a feed direction of the workpiece to be sanded.
4. (Previously presented) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the activating regions of the activating device are raised lamellae arranged on a carrier.
5. (Previously presented) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 4, wherein the carrier is a plate which can be moved in a reciprocating manner in a sanding plane transversely to a feed direction of the workpiece.
6. (Withdrawn) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 4, wherein the carrier has endless conveying means revolving transversely to a feed direction of the workpiece.

7. (Previously presented) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the activating regions extend in a form of raised lamellae on a sanding plane diagonally, in a V shape, in a W shape, in a curved manner or so as to be offset one behind the other.

8. (Withdrawn) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a pressure device having at least one pressure shoe which can be triggered and is arranged between the activating regions of the activating device and the abrasive.

9. (Previously presented) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the abrasive is mounted on a retaining device and the retaining device is mounted with the oscillation drive means on a sanding machine frame in order to set the retaining device, relative to a sanding machine frame, in a sanding movement oscillating parallel to a sanding plane, which is defined by a sanding surface of the abrasive, wherein the activating device is coupled to the sanding machine frame and is uncoupled from the retaining device at least in one direction of the sanding plane.

10. (Withdrawn) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 1, further comprising, a plurality of activating devices arranged one behind the other in the feed direction.

11. (Previously presented) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 9, wherein the oscillation drive means have rotatably driven eccentric shafts which extend vertically with respect to a sanding plane, between the sanding machine frame and the retaining device.

12. (Previously presented) A sanding machine having oscillation drive means for setting an abrasive in an oscillating sanding movement, comprising an activating device having a multiplicity of activating regions triggered in such a way that

various regions of the abrasive are alternately activated independently of the oscillating sanding movement, wherein

the abrasive is mounted on a retaining device and the retaining device is mounted with the oscillation drive means on a sanding machine frame in order to set the retaining device, relative to a sanding machine frame, in a sanding movement oscillating parallel to a sanding plane, which is defined by a sanding surface of the abrasive, wherein the activating device is coupled to the sanding machine frame and is uncoupled from the retaining device at least in one direction of the sanding plane, and

the oscillation drive means have rotatably driven eccentric shafts which extend vertically with respect to a sanding plane, between the sanding machine frame and the retaining device, at least one of the eccentric shafts is displaceably mounted in one direction of a sanding plane.

13. (Previously presented) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the abrasive is a sanding sheet interchangeably connected to the retaining device.

14. (Withdrawn) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the activating device has flexible conduits for receiving a medium, and pressure control means are connected to the conduits, medium located in the conduits being pressurized in a pulsating manner by the pressure control means.

15. (Withdrawn) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the abrasive is a revolving endless sanding belt.

16. (Currently amended) A method of sanding a workpiece using a sanding machine ~~as claimed in claim 4~~ by oscillating sanding movements, the sanding machine comprising an activating device having a multiplicity of activating regions triggered in such a way that various regions of the abrasive are alternately pressed onto a workpiece by the activating regions independently of the

oscillating sanding movement, the method comprising alternate activation of various activating regions of the abrasive independently of the oscillating sanding movement by pressing the activating regions onto the workpiece.

17. (Previously presented) A sanding machine, comprising:

a retaining device mounted to a frame by at least one displaceable eccentric shaft for setting an abrasive in an oscillating sanding movement with respect to a workpiece; and

an activating device which is activated independently of the oscillating sanding movement, the activating device having a multiplicity of activating regions such that the independent movement of the activating device alternately activates various regions of the abrasive.

18. (Previously presented) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 17, wherein the activating device is uncoupled from the oscillating sanding movement.

19. (Previously presented) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 17, wherein the activating device includes a carrier plate which is freely displaceable in a sanding plane transversely to a feed direction of the workpiece.

20. (Previously presented) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 17, wherein the at least one of the eccentric shafts comprises a bearing arrangement which is displaceable in one direction of a sanding plane configured to at least one of compensate for linear expansions and to reduce bearing load.